

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-34 and 36-45 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 20, 22, 23, 28 through 30 and 41 have been amended and new claims 46-49 have been added. Claims 14, 16, 35 and 42 through 45 have been canceled by the present amendment.

Applicants sincerely appreciate the interview on August 26, 2008 with Examiner Ali and his Supervisory Patent Examiner. The interview was helpful and informative with regard to the claimed subject matter that has been incorporated by the present amendments.

In the Office Action, claim 45 was objected to for having improper dependency. Claim 45 has been cancelled by the present amendment. The rejection is hereby rendered moot.

In the office action, claims 1-15, 17-34 and 36-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 as being anticipated by Anthony et al. (US6,559,769) (hereinafter "the Anthony et al. patent").

Independent claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for recording, playback, and investigation of an event associated with a transportation vehicle, from at least two synchronized video, audio, or data streams associated with the transportation vehicle. The apparatus has at least two capture devices for capturing the at least two audio or video or data streams depicting activities associated with the event and at least one recording device for recording at least one of the at least two streams depicting the activities associated with the transportation vehicle. The apparatus further has at least one communication device for communicating the at least one recorded stream to a monitoring station; and an investigative tool for debriefing the event at a later stage. At least one of the at least two capture devices captures activities occurring in or near the transportation vehicle, and at least one of the at least two capture devices captures activities occurring in or near a command and control center associated with the event. The command and control center is located remotely from the transportation vehicle.

The at least one of the at least two capture devices captures audio communication transmitted by a radio receiver.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a method for the recording, playback, and investigation of an event associated with a transportation vehicle, from at least two synchronized video or audio or data streams associated with the transportation vehicle. Claim 20 provides for receiving the at least two streams depicting activities associated with the event, from at least two capture devices and recording at least one of the at least two streams depicting the activities associated with the transportation vehicle by at least one recording device. Claim 20 further provides for communicating the at least one recorded stream to a monitoring station by a communication device, and debriefing the event at a later stage. At least one of the at least two capture devices captures activities occurring in or near the transportation vehicle, and at least one of the at least two capture devices captures activities occurring in or near a command and control center associated with the event. The command and control center is located remotely from the transportation vehicle. The at least one of the at least two capture devices captures audio communication transmitted by a radio receiver.

The purpose of the Anthony et al. patent is to track and monitor in real-time an event, and supply a warning as early as possible regarding the event. Thus while data is stored and accessed, it is done in order to enable early warning (col. 4 line 52-col 5. line 5). In fact Anthony recites that "The preferred embodiment of the present invention normally operates under one of three modes: snooze, active, and alarm" (col. 12 lines 22-24).

In contrast, presently claimed invention is directed at post-investigating an event. The specification recites that "There is a further need to search and to replay particular combinations of the recordings in combination with other collected data in order to assist in the post-event investigation, analysis, re-construction and debriefing" (par. 14) and "at a later stage an investigative tool may be used to debrief each incident or event captured. This tool enables the review of the event or incident as it unfolds second by second..." (par 37). The Anthony et al. patent is not concerned with and thus is not structured to perform these functions.

In the Anthony et al. patent, the only captures video signals from dedicated video cameras. Thus, only audio visual data is used for the system. When the Anthony et al. patent refers to radio signals, a GPRS system is used as a channel for transferring the audio visual information, and not as a source of valuable information to be captured, recorded and analyzed in itself.

The presently claimed invention captures the whole evolvement of an event, thus, it is important to capture and record additional types of data, and in particular the communication channels of the vehicle with the world, such as audio transmitted in radio signals, and in particular audio transmitted by a radio receiver.

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to reflect that at least one capture device captures radio signals.

The Anthony et al. patent captures and records information only within the scene or from emergency vehicles located near the scene. In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, communication with and within a command and control center are also captured and recorded. Capture and recordation within the command and control center are crucial for investigating the full flow of an event, including the functioning of the rescue forces, and drawing conclusions from past events. The disclosure recites that "The command and control centers 24, 26 are linked to the communication network 22 typically via wired communication lines 25', 25", such as dedicated and secure telephone lines, and the like. The command and control centers 24, 26 are provided with the capability of communicating with each other in order to provide for the two-way transmission of the multi-media data streams for purposes of further monitoring, enhanced analysis and advanced event handling." (par. 26). By capturing the recordation within the command and control center, the management of the event can be later studied.

Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to reflect that at least one capture device captures activities in or near the transportation vehicle, and at least another capture device captures activities in or near a command and control center, which is remote from the transportation vehicle, such as a police headquarters, an emergency center, or the like.

The Anthony patent describes video streams that are received at the command and control centers, but does not disclose capturing the activities at the command and control centers, thus not enabling investigation of the personnel and behavior of the command and control center. The Anthony et al. patent is essentially an early warning system. As such, it does not disclose or suggest capturing the activities at the command and control centers, because it is not concerned with enabling the investigation of the personnel and behavior of the command and control center. Information that is both internal and external to the vehicle and command and control center is also captured with regard to the event. This sort of information would not be relevant to the early warning system of the Anthony et al. patent and thus it is not disclosed therein.

The office action cites column 8 at lines 22 through 36 of the Anthony et al. patent for the teaching that at least one analysis device is located external to the transportation vehicle and compilation of a historical database. However, the claimed present invention now recites at least two capture devices, where one of the at least two capture devices captures activities occurring in or near the transportation vehicle and other captures activities in or near a command and control center. The Anthony et al. patent does not capture this additional information or require these additional elements. Further, the claimed present invention is concerned with capturing in addition to visual data of an event, also audio transmitted in radio signals, and in particular audio transmitted by a radio receiver. The referenced citation does not teach these additional limitations.

In order to reconstruct the event second-by-second, all data streams should be synchronized. In the Anthony et al. patent, the streams are displayed in real time and are thus automatically synchronized. However, once the streams are stored for later playing, synchronization is lost, and cannot be achieved without an appropriate mechanism.

In the claimed present, all data streams are synchronized, and optionally synchronized with a radio signal.

Claims 2 through 13, 15, and 17 through 19 that depend from independent claim 1 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 1. Additionally, claims 21 through 34 and 36 through 40 are also allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 20.

Independent claim 41 is directed to an apparatus for the monitoring and recording of at least two video or audio or data streams associated with an event involving a transportation vehicle. The apparatus has at least two capture devices for receiving the at least two streams depicting activities associated with the event and at least one recording device located within the transportation vehicle for recording the at least one stream. The apparatus further has a communication device for communicating the recorded data stream to a monitoring station; and an investigative tool for debriefing an event associated with the transportation vehicle at a later stage. The at least two streams are synchronized with radio transmissions.

The Anthony et al. patent as recited above does not disclose that the at least two streams are synchronized with radio transmissions. As discussed above, the Anthony et al patent does not disclose audio transmitted in radio signals, and in particular audio transmitted by a radio receiver. In order to reconstruct the event second-by-second, all data streams should be synchronized. In the Anthony et al patent, the streams are displayed in real time and are thus automatically synchronized. However, once the streams are stored for later playing, synchronization is lost, and cannot be achieved without an appropriate mechanism. The Anthony et al. patent discloses an early warning system, thus the synchronized playback for later analysis and debriefing an event associated with the transportation vehicle would not be of concern.

Further, new dependent claims 46 through 49 that depend from independent claim 41 are also allowable for the reasons set forth above.

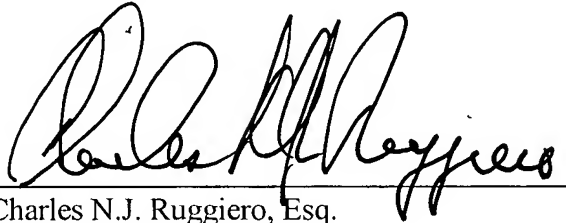
New claim 46 discloses wherein the capture device located at the command and control center captures audio communication between the command and control center, and another facility, such as an emergency center or a second command and control center.

New claim 47 discloses wherein the additional command and control center also receives information from the vehicle. These limitations are described in par. 37.

New claims 48 and 49 disclose that the audio communication transmitted by the radio receiver is exchanged by an emergency service and is related to the event.

In view of the above explanations and amendments applicant believes that the application is now in order for allowance, allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

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September 4, 2008

Date